

KINDA SWEET 161

Chapter 161 Completely Devastated

Those in the industry were well aware of how much damage these words might do to a celebrity.

She had a ten-year contract with Annie International, with seven years remaining as of now.

What would she become seven years later when the contract expired if she had been suspended for seven years, with no works, events, plays, or movies?

Who would remember her?

What would be the sense of terminating the contract if she had turned into a middle-aged lady by then?

Molly felt like she was going to die every time she thought of this.

She needed to make an urgent phone call to find out what was going on!

The call was connected in a brief moment; the other end was a bit noisy; she gripped her phone,

"Hello, is it Evan?"

"Hold on," the guy on the other end of the line said quietly.

The other side made a succession of rustling sounds before becoming quiet.

"Go ahead."

Evan was always cool and calm, which was completely contradictory to Molly's impulsive and hot-

tempered nature.

He seldom lost his anger, but when he did, everyone was terrified.

Furthermore, with years of expertise in this circle, he had his methods and had successfully brought numerous superstars to prominence.

Even though they did not renew the contract with him in the end, they left on good terms and remained friends.

They would also be willing to help him with his new artists whenever he needed it.

It demonstrated how well he had done in this circle as well as how extensive his networks were.

Molly didn't listen to anyone but him.

She couldn't have gotten where she was today if it hadn't been for him, no matter how hard she worked.

As a result, Molly held him in the highest regard.

Only after the other side went quiet did she ask warily, "Evan, I just saw the company's official statement. What is going on exactly? Why would the company suddenly suspend my activities?"

"Do you believe the choice was taken on the spur of the moment?" Evan stated coldly and flatly.

Molly skipped a heartbeat

But she defended herself until the last end and faked a grin, "Evan, you know how impetuous I can be,

but I never have the guts to do horrible things. I'm not sure what I did and the company made this

decision."

Evan smiled. It was more of a mockery as if he was telling her that he knew everything.

Molly's face became somewhat pale.

"Molly, I warned you not to covet things that don't belong to you and to act appropriately if you want to

stay in this field. But did you listen? No, you didn't, and you pulled some dirty tricks. Not only did you

fail to harm anyone, but you also dug your own grave. You asked for it. What's the point of sobbing in

front of me now?"

His statements startled Molly.

"I didn't, Evan..."

"You didn't do what? You didn't ask someone to put the drugs on Laura, or you didn't ask the media to

report her scandal?"

Molly widened her eyes and was astounded.

Evan's voice grew colder and icier. She could not feel even a bit of warmth in his tone.

"You called to ask for my help, but you don't have the guts to acknowledge what you've done. What

else have you hidden from me? Do you think I'm as stupid as you and will help you even if you don't tell

me the truth? There's nothing else I could do now, regardless of whether I'll be able or willing to help.

The decision was taken by the board of directors, and if you still have anything to say, you may talk to

them directly! I'm busy and have nothing further to say to you, goodbye."

He hung up right after.

"Hello, Evan, Evan!"

Molly did not expect Evan to hang up the phone coldly, without giving her even a chance to speak.

They had known each other for three years, he had treated her well and had provided her with several

opportunities, but she had failed him every time and had yet to deliver a decent work.

She assumed Evan would tolerate her and would not abandon her easily since, aside from her

potential, he had invested a lot of time and effort in her.

But she was mistaken – he hung up on her!

How could that be?

Molly shouted a couple of times over a disconnected phone call, but it was futile.

She called again, but he did not answer.

Evan even turned his phone off after a few more calls from Molly.

It was only now that Molly realized how serious it was.

She collapsed on the sofa, looking blankly at her empty house as if she had dropped into an unending void.

She was well aware that she was doomed!

Today marked the end of her career in the entertainment industry, for which she had fought tirelessly.

However, after a long while, her self-pity eventually evolved to anger.

Laura was to blame for everything.

That scumbag!

She must have purposefully enraged her that night, causing her to lose control and behaved rashly!

She was well-known in the field as a fiery-tempered person, and her hot temper earned her a tough

image.

As a result, the people around her would typically avoid getting into an argument with her.

Yes, that must be it, she thought. Laura was aware of her bad temper and purposefully said something

to set it off.

She purposefully forced her to make mistakes to draw Mr. Nixon's attention away from her.

So she could climb to the top.

That was exactly what happened.

She rose tall and swept everything on the coffee table to the floor, her eyes full of grudges and

vengeance.

She gazed forward, blankly, "Laura Davies, you scumbag! I'm going to have my revenge!"

...

Laura, on the other hand, had no idea she had turned into a thorn in Molly's eyes.

Although she had finished filming "The Youth", she was still working on "Chase the Wind", so she was

still quite busy recently.

Natalia was about to join the crew, and the filming was scheduled to begin next Wednesday, Vicente said that it would be a wonderful day for the launch.

Natalia didn't mind the date since Vicente had everything planned ahead of time. She stayed at home reading the scripts because there wasn't much to do at the office.

Archie had returned from his business trip. He had been preoccupied with work recently but was free for the next few days.

When he saw she was free, he approached her with a plate of fruit and asked, "When are you going to join the crew?"

"Hmmm... It should be five days later," Natalia murmured, counting with her fingers.

"Where's the shooting again?"

"They said it would be close to the cinematic town."

Chapter 162 Vacation

Hearing that, he frowned in displeasure.

"Does it imply you'll be gone for a long time?"

Natalia grinned as she knew he was correct.

"It's just going to be a few months, but time flies."

Archie gave a grim smile.

“How about Eqitin? You said you'd go back with me.”

Natalia couldn't say anything. “Emm...”

Could she claim that she had just forgotten about it?

His smile vanished in an instant, and she hastily added, "I still have a few days until I start work, and I can go with you right now."

She took out her phone and instantly looked for flights to demonstrate her sincerity.

“We can catch the earliest flight tomorrow and still make it.”

Archie grunted coldly and turned to walk upstairs, ignoring her.

Sigh, Natalia assumed he was upset, but a few minutes later he walked down the stairs and shoved a stack of vacation information at her.

“Pick a location. we will go tomorrow.”

Natalia couldn't think of anything to say.

“I'm not always free, and don't you want to go on vacation?” Archie said sternly.

Natalia's eyes twinkled, "Of course I do."

She quickly started going over the material and deciding where she wanted to go.

As she looked over the documents, she asked if there was any place he wanted to go.

Archie was fine with everything because he knew she would start shooting soon and he wouldn't be able to visit her every day as he was busy, so they would be apart for a short time.

So he wanted to spend as much time as he could with her now that he was free.

Natalia was fast to choose a location. After all, she had traveled to numerous locations in the last several years.

She chose a few less popular spots and showed him her choice.

"These are the locations I had wanted to go when I was alone. They are perfect for this season. You can have a look and choose one."

Archie swiped on the tablet. These were all spots with gorgeous landscapes, ideal for a couple on vacation. He felt satisfied and chose a spot after thinking for a short while.

"Here! We can have mountains and rivers, and it looks lovely near the sea."

Natalia went in for a closer look and immediately grinned, "That's my favorite too, all right then, here is

where we'll be going."

"Okay, I'll make arrangements tonight and let you know," Archie said with a nod.

Just like that, the decision had been made, almost in no time. Natalia joyfully returned to her room with

her tablet after dinner to continue her search for further information.

Archie, on the other hand, began to make plans for their holiday. It would be a three-day, two-night trip,

departing tomorrow morning.

Natalia was pleased with the plan, so she hurriedly agreed and began preparing for the trip.

They chose a tiny village by the sea in a neighboring country, and they would be out of Ambario.

That town was well-known for its stunning scenery, clean air, and pleasant surroundings. Every year, a

large number of people went on vacation there.

Furthermore, it was now spring, which was the ideal season for a trip.

Despite the temperature difference between day and night, it was still pleasant.

Natalia had prepared numerous items that they would need during their trip.

Archie went to the office for some work the next morning before picking her up and driving to the

airport.

She was ecstatic because it was her first trip with him. When they arrived at the airport, she discovered they'd be traveling over on his private jet.

"I didn't manage to buy airline tickets because we were in a hurry, so this would save us time," Archie stated as to why they would travel on a private jet.

Natalia nodded and didn't give it any thought.

She took a nap after learning that the flight would be three hours long after they boarded.

Archie, on the other hand, was preoccupied with an investment proposal. He was on vacation, but still he had to make a lot of decisions for his company, and he could not just walk away from these matters just because he was on vacation.

Although he was not present at the workplace, he needed to work.

Natalia was filled with sadness as she thought about this. All of the window shades were closed so she could sleep soundly, and just the reading light on top of him was turned on in the front.

Archie sat back in his chair, his gaze fixed on the paperwork in front of him. At times, he would knit his handsome eyebrows, and at others, he would sign or draw circles on the paperwork.

Natalia was captivated by his excellent look. No wonder he was constantly surrounded by ladies – he was really charming.

On the contrary, she was just an ordinary woman who had nothing special, but still he fell in love with her.

Natalia vowed to work harder to be a woman worthy of standing next to him. She would not humiliate him at any cost.

There was no one chatting on the plane, so it was silent. She sat in the softly reclining chair, and turned to sleep on the side facing him. She then gently placed her hand on his waist before shutting her eyes.

Archie paused slightly and cast a glance at the hands around his waist.

Natalia was lying on her side with her eyes closed and one hand on his waist. It warmed his heart since it was a sign of dependency on him.

He took her hand in his and kissed her on the cheek, saying, "Sleep tight."

Natalia promptly fell asleep.

After three hours.

Archie woke Natalia as the jet touched down. She rubbed her eyes before following him down the jet.

Because this trip was decided only at the last minute, he didn't bring much with them, and few people

knew about it. He did, however, bring Nancy along for the sake of safety.

As they stepped off the plane, their car was there waiting for them.

He escorted her to the car and headed to the farmhouse Natalia had chosen.

The little town was given the name Kima, which means "Wonderland" in the native tongue.

They were both sitting in the car, staring out the windows. There were beautiful scenery and

surroundings along the road – rivers, mountains, and low-rise red-tile residences unique to this place.

Fruit trees were planted on both sides of the road, filling the air with a fresh aroma. It was such a

relaxing spot, with people cycling beneath the trees and laughing along the way.

Natalia was fascinated with what she saw, and her attention was fixed outside the window.

As he held her hands, Archie smiled at her.

After a half-hour drive, they arrived at their destination.

Although it was not a large and luxurious farmhouse, it was near the sea and had a serene

atmosphere. The design was basic yet attractive and elegant, and it appeared to be an ideal location

for a holiday.

Because this was a last-minute decision, they didn't bring much luggage with them.

Chapter 163 Kima

Archie was preoccupied with the luggage, as Natalie dashed in with a backpack.

The instant she stepped into the vegetable-filled yard, she was completely captivated.

She had read about this place, and she knew that they grew their own veggies here, and if they were interested, they could pick and eat them as well, just like a real farmer.

They could buy meat and spices from the local market.

She had been living a lavish life with Archie, and it was nice to experience life as a regular couple every now and again.

Archie, who was standing behind her, was moved by her happiness. He sped up and carried their belongings into the home.

“Archie, it's lovely here. Hurry in and have a look. You will definitely love it.”

Natalia went inside and hurried back out, clutching his arm, to tell him what she saw.

Archie took a glance about – it was modest but gave the impression of living in solitude – and he

noded to her.

They carried their belongings into the two-story villa with quite some history.

Natalia stepped outdoors after walking around the house. She was overjoyed to discover a flower garden there.

“The owner should be someone who enjoys his life.”

She stated this as she dashed down the path to have a better look at the colorful flowers in the garden.

Archie, on the other hand, walked out with two glasses of water and handed one to her.

“Our garden at home has more flowers than this one, but you've never claimed I'm someone who enjoys my life.”

Natalia gave him a sidelong glance, saying, "It's different."

“You did not grow those flowers. Mrs. Dottie asked a gardener to take care of them. You will only glance at them when you are in a good mood and will disregard them most of the time. So, it's completely different, okay?”

Archie realized she was correct and didn't argue.

“Hungry? Let's go for a walk and get something to eat.”

“Okay.” Natalia gave a nod.

Natalia prepared a couple t-shirt to change the way he dressed and let his CEO husband feel the satisfaction of being a typical couple.

Archie came out shortly after changing. He appeared more relaxed and cheerful wearing a casual white t-shirt. Natalia wore the same style but in a smaller size. She wore her hair in a bun, and they looked like a great match.

Archie's eyes sparkled as he looked at her, and they went out hand in hand.

They decided to have a look and eat anything they wanted along the way. Soon after, they came into a delicate tiny bistro not far from the farmhouse.

The street was rather quiet because there were few people at this time of day, but the scenery was lovely and the atmosphere was pleasant.

They walked in and sat down.

The owners were a couple in their thirties. They looked quite young with a six-year-old son.

They were also from Ambario but moved here after falling in love with the place. They made a living by

running an Ambario bistro.

The owner, Hannah Morris, was a delightful person who insisted them to just call her Hannah.

Natalia was overjoyed to meet someone from her own country in a foreign land and quickly grew close to her calling her just Hannah.

Hannah came to take their order, while Natalia asked her what she would recommend.

Hannah then recommended some of the finest dishes to them and Natalia ordered three dishes after checking with Archie.

After handing off their order to her husband in the kitchen, she served them beverages and chatted with them.

They were the only ones dining in the bistro because it wasn't yet mealtime.

"We primarily serve dishes from our hometown here. I'm not sure if you will like them, but many people have stated that our dishes taste delicious. If you don't like any of the dishes, just let me know and I will make you something else." explained Hannah.

Natalia grinned and said, "You won't be able to earn then. That's okay if they are not good, but if they are tasty, then your customers would have to lie to have more to eat!"

“Ha-ha, I won’t say the same to everyone, but you don’t seem to be someone who would take

advantage of others,” she waved her hands.

She paused and raised her brow, "Are you students?" she said. "You seem to be students who skipped

class for a vacation.”

Natalia blushed and shifted her gaze to Archie.

He was attractive, and there was no indication of aging on his face.

And he was dressed casually in a white t-shirt today and seemed to be enjoying himself because he

was with her, so he appeared much younger than anyone his age.

“We are not students,” Natalia said.

“Really? This gentleman beside you looks quite young, and you two seem to be a good match. I

thought you were students.”

Natalia thought, she was already twenty-four, and Archie was five years older, nearly thirty. It would be

ridiculous to look like students...

Archie, on the other hand, was overjoyed to hear what she said, especially when she said that they

appeared to be a good match.

He looked pleased as well, and he immediately ordered two bottles of drinks. He didn't drink, so he put

both in front of Natalia and asked her to save one for later on their walk.

Since Hannah had been so nice to them, Natalia asked her happily, "Hannah, do you know any great

spots around here?"

"There are so many lovely places! If you go east from here, you will see the Smoking Sea. It is close

and offers the finest view."

"The sea is misty, giving it the appearance of a paradise. If you walk north, you'll notice a mysterious

temple on top of Mount Praia. Make a wish, and it will be granted. Nine out of ten visitors will visit the

temple, and many couples like going on dates there as well. If you're interested, you could go tomorrow

because it's a little late today. Climbing to the peak takes at least half a day."

"Oh, I heard there'll be a meteor shower here tomorrow, right?" Natalia inquired, her eyes wide with

curiosity.

She looked up tourist attractions and weather forecasts before coming, and it's been predicted that

there would be a meteor shower tomorrow.

"Meteor shower?" Hannah shook her head and frowned, "I've never heard of that, but you may have a look. Even without the meteor shower, there are plenty of places to visit around the mountain."

Natalia agreed with a nod.

The food was served at this point. Hannah excused herself and brought her kid to the back for schoolwork.

Although it was a tiny bistro, the food was delicious.

It lacked the glitz and glam of a five-star restaurant, yet it was enveloped by a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Chapter 164 At Least A Blessing

After the meal, they said their goodbyes to the couple and walked out.

They left the bistro at four in the afternoon. They were advised to walk straight since the night market would begin at five. They decided to have a look because there were quite a lot of things they could see there.

Archie had never been to a night market before, and he was somewhat intrigued.

When he noticed Natalia's delighted expression, he got even more interested. On their way, they

enjoyed the beautiful sceneries.

When they saw peopling coming and going by their bicycles, Natalia begged to ride one as well.

As a result, Archie rented one near the highway. As he pushed it out, he realized he didn't know how to ride a bicycle.

Natalia burst into laughter.

Who would have thought that the multitalented Mr. McCarthy didn't know how to ride a bicycle?

Archie was a little irritated. He'd been raised in the wealthiest manner possible. He had the best chauffeur in this world whenever he went out, and he'd never ridden a bicycle.

Seeing his dark face, Natalia could only swallow back her laughter.

She then told him to sit in the backseat and while she led from the front, he could just follow from the back.

Archie got onto his seat unwillingly, and Natalia began riding after telling him, "Let's go."

They rode their bicycles along the street, letting the air brushed on their faces. He was fully immersed in the aroma of her refreshing shampoo.

Archie fell in love with this type of soothing environment, and he felt at peace.

Natalia hadn't ridden a bicycle since she graduated from her middle school, yet she managed to ride it successfully. She was overjoyed.

And she started singing the song she used to hum when she was cycling to her school.

Her humming was slightly off-key since she was riding with someone behind her and needed extra energy. This had a major impact on her singing.

Regardless, she was born with a good voice, so her humming was acceptable.

Archie paused for a moment before asking, "What are you humming?"

"Ballade pour Adeline, have you never heard of it before?"

Archie was at a loss for words. Her humming was out of tune, yet she expected him to recognize it...

As Archie said nothing, Natalia added, "The original name of this song is Ballade pour Adeline, it's a piece performed by a well-known pianist, and it's even won prizes..."

"I know..." Archie snapped, and his face clouded.

Natalia nodded and shrugged, saying, "I forgot you're quite good at piano."

On their bicycle, they soon arrived at the night market Hannah recommended earlier.

The night market had only just begun, and several stalls were still being set up. Natalia directed Archie to an ice cream store that had had been praised by lots of people online. While they waited for the stalls to open, they ate ice cream.

The shop played light and pleasant music, and the owner was a Turkish man who entertained customers by doing creative ice-cream performance.

Natalia finished her ice cream while sitting in the shop, bored. She didn't want to go to the night market right now, so she went to see the performance of the owner.

When the owner noticed her arriving, he asked if she wanted to give it a try.

Natalia hesitated for a while, but eventually accepted the shovel and cone and began creating ice cream with his help.

Before she came here, she already knew how to build a flower on a cake with butter, so it just used the same method but with a different material. Furthermore, the owner was patient, and she figured it out in almost no time.

Natalia purchased the ice cream she had made and delightedly handed it to Archie, saying, "Here, this

is for you."

Archie raised his brow as he examined the oddly-shaped ice cream in front of him. He accepted it but couldn't help but remark, "This is so awful, did you make this?"

Natalia nodded and said, "Yes! If you don't like it, I can have it back." She stretched out her hand to take the ice cream.

But he won't give it back. Instead, he ate half of it in one bite, saying, "It's impolite to take back the things you have given out."

Natalia broke out laughing as she observed his whining expression while eating the ice cream.

So she let him go this time and carried on walking.

The streetlights were switched on, and the night market had begun.

As previously said by Hannah, the night market was busy with both visitors and residents.

Natalia strolled about with Archie, watching here and there while Archie trailed behind like an attendant,

frowning all the way.

Natalia noticed he appeared irritated by the seemingly chaotic and filthy environment, so she left him

and dashed to the front.

Archie was concerned about her safety and could only ignore the filthy surroundings and race up to follow her.

“How much does this cost?”

Natalia was squatting in front of a stall, trying on a silver ring, when Archie noticed her.

“Two hundred.”

“Two hundred? It's pricey.”

“It isn't too pricey. It's made of pure silver, it's not just silver-coated, and the thread wrapped around it was made by hand using temple-blessed thread, ensuring good health and longevity.”

“Good,” Natalia said with a smile. “I will take two for two hundred, and I'll pay you straight away.”

“Two hundred? I don't make a dime at that price!”

“All right, then, I'll give you twenty more, take it or leave it.”

“Aww, this lady is such a deal hunter, a hundred and twenty apiece, I don't make much...”

“Come on, let's do this! You are a good person. Please sell it to me.” As she said, she withdrew her money from her pocket and presented it to the owner.

The owner accepted the money and said, "All right then, I'll sell it to you because you're a lovely lady."

He then brought out another ring with the same design and presented it to Natalia.

Natalia turned around and thanked him as if she had gotten some valuable treasure.

When the owner noticed her speedy spending, he remarked, "Do you want to have a look at these earrings? They are also blessed by the temple."

Natalia refused with a shake of her head. "No, the rings are fine," she responded, believing the styles of the earrings were out of date.

She then approached Archie and placed the ring on his middle finger.

Archie frowned and tried to remove it right away, but Natalia stopped him.

"Do not take it off. It has been blessed by the temple for good health and longevity."

Archie disliked the seller's sales techniques while also despising Natalia's intelligence. "Are you sure you believe that?"

"Of course, why not?"

She strolled to the next stall selling handmade masks, looked at them, and casually stated, "What's

wrong with believing some nice words. Even if they are not real, they are at least a blessing,

right?"

Chapter 165 Because Of Him

She then tried on a monkey mask and made a goofy face at Archie.

Archie felt warm in his heart hearing what she said, and after a while, finally he nodded, "You are

correct, it's good enough to have a blessing."

Natalia removed her mask and smiled at him. "That's right!" she murmured and squeezed his face.

Archie came to a halt. Nobody had ever squeezed his cheek before, and he had an odd feeling about it.

Natalia hadn't noticed that. She then removed the monkey mask and replaced it with a pig mask.

"Hey, beautiful lady, do I look good?" she turned back and asked Archie.

Archie could not hold back his laughter and said, "Ugly!"

"Come, beautiful lady, come back to my farm with me!" she said as she approached Archie in an attempt to catch him.

"Who are you talking to?" Archie said, softly knocking on her head.

"Of course, you! Look in the mirror and check whether you have a beautiful face."

"But I am a man!"

"There aren't many ladies in the world who are more beautiful than you."

Archie was at a loss for words.

He wasn't sure whether he should be delighted or upset at being told he was more good-looking than a woman.

Natalia removed the mask and gave it to the owner, saying, "I'll take this, how much is it?"

"Why do you want this?"

"Just for fun."

Natalia grinned at him, paid, removed the mask from the bag, and put it back on, clearly having a good time.

Archie trailed behind her, seeing that she was much more energetic and lively than when she was in Julio.

He lavished her with jewels, cosmetics, clothes, and purses, all custom-made by world-renowned designers, yet she had never smiled as brilliantly as she did now.

And she acted as though she had just found some magnificent treasure for purchasing two cheaply produced rings.

He realized she was far more cute than he had previously believed, and he liked her much more as a result.

She was happy because of him, not the luxuries.

They stayed in the night market until Natalia was tired and then returned home.

Natalia felt cold on her trip home because the temperature in town varied greatly between day and night.

Archie then took off his jacket and put it around her shoulders. They were hungry, so on the way back, they stopped at the bistro where they had eaten earlier in the day.

They were ready to enter when they noticed the owners adjusting and cleaning up the chairs and tables.

"Oh? Are you through with the night market?"

"Are you closing?" Natalia inquired, feeling a little awkward.

"Yes, it's almost eleven o'clock now, and we're ready to head home. Would you like anything to eat?"

Natalia gave a nod.

"Oh, everything is sold out. We'll have to get some fresh ingredients tomorrow morning. But I got some bread and yogurt this afternoon. You can have them if you want!"

She went to the refrigerator, pulled out the bread and yogurt, and presented it to them.

Natalia immediately waved her hand. "It's okay, you're running a business here. How could we take it for free?"

Archie quickly pulled three notes from his wallet and handed them to her.

Hannah was irritated by this. "What are you doing? These are just bread and yogurt. We are all from Ambario and we are now in a foreign land. I can certainly afford to treat you this."

Natalia blushed and felt embarrassed.

"No, we didn't mean it that way."

"In any case, take this! There are no stores or restaurants along the way you're taking, so this will be your final chance to get food."

"Oh, I see," Natalia murmured.

"Yes, and don't stay out too late at night since the tourist attractions are packed with all sorts of people.

The weather will get much colder after midnight and everyone will be heading home, there isn't much outside at that hour anyway, and it's not safe to remain out late."

Natalia gave a nod. "Thank you."

"Don't worry about it."

Archie put back his cash into his wallet.

Natalia was holding the bread and yogurt when they were sent to the door. She was moved because she felt Hannah was a nice person who took wonderful care of them.

"There are lovely people everywhere in this world," she murmured on the way home, "And we are blessed to have met a kind couple here."

"It just took bread and yogurt to reach to your heart?" Archie said softly.

Natalia gave him a stern look and said, "What do you mean? Is this something to do with bread and yogurt? This is the warm feeling of meeting someone from the home country in a foreign land, do you get it?"

"Yes, I do. You met someone from your own country in a foreign land and she was gracious enough to

give you bread and yogurt. But you've never thanked me for all the bread I've given you."

Natalia couldn't think of anything to say.

"Because you are such a businessman!" she said after a little pause.

Archie couldn't hear her and gave out a high-pitched 'hmm'.

Natalia didn't want to irritate this man, so she softened her tone and added, "Thank you, I am very thankful to you, so grateful."

Archie smirked. She was praising him, but why did he feel she was not?

Natalia didn't explain anything to him and just went away without giving him a chance to defend himself.

After a restful night's sleep.

Natalia and Archie headed to the nearby food market the next morning after learning about it.

They chose this little town for a reason, and they wanted to experience the life of ordinary people here.

As a result, Natalia had insisted they buy ingredients and cook for themselves.

Although she was not a competent chef, she had seen him cook and was happy to let him take on the

culinary duty.

Archie agreed and accompanied her to the food market after changing his clothes. They arrived at a nearby market.

Natalia was inept at cooking and sourcing fresh food alike.

Archie, on the other hand, could tell the difference between fresh and bad food. But he was too proud to bargain, so he chose the ones he liked and paid whatever the owner asked, while ignoring those he didn't want, no matter how cheap.

His abrupt and non-bargaining purchasing style drew the attention of the ladies around him in the market.

It was already quite a topic for good-looking couples like them visiting the food market.

There were usually vacationing couples who would want to visit the food market, but they sure weren't as good-looking as Archie and Natalia. In an instant, they became the talk of the town.

They finished buying the items for lunch in approximately half an hour.

"Have you noticed how the ladies are looking at you just now in the market? They were watching you like wolves." On the way back, Natalia teased Archie.

Chapter 166 Growing Old Together

Archie glimpsed at her coldly.

Natalia continued with a mischievous smile, "Listen, you have to follow me very closely these few days, or else you'll get taken away by the wolves. I could protect you if you stay with me."

After finished, she laughed. Archie's muscles tensed up a little.

He was slightly aggrieved. Who would have thought that the president of the McCarthy Properties would be teased by someone like that one day?

Yet he could not utter any word.

He could only flick his finger on her forehead with grievance in the end. "Alright, hurry up and go! We still need to go to Mount Praia."

Both of them strode towards the manor.

Archie was preparing lunch in the kitchen at noon. Natalia took the initiative to lend him a helping hand, washing the vegetables and the plates. They did look like a young married couple.

After finishing washing the vegetables, Natalia had nothing else to do. She carried a small wooden stool and sat next to the kitchen watching Archie stirring the vegetables in the pan.

She realized a man with good looks would look handsome even when his hair was disheveled and he was wearing an apron. He had a natural charisma.

He looked composed and was deft in cooking, as if he was not holding a spatula, but a samurai's sword.

The pot did not look like one either. It looked like a protective shield that he could use to defend himself during a war. He was the proud and superior general who commanded the army.

A smile broke upon her lips. As she was absorbed in her infinite imagination of him colonizing the whole world, she suddenly heard a loud bang.

Natalia was taken aback by the noise and she leapt from the stool. She saw Archie covering the pot with the lid in a rush. The meat was sizzling with oil inside.

Natalia glanced at him deeply. She saw him heaving a sigh of relief momentarily.

Alright!

She had thought too much. Archie did not cook much either. He was just biting the bullet to mix and cook the ingredients with his powerful common sense and logical thinking.

He finished cooking. Although the food's appearance was awful, the food still tasted okay. After having

lunch, they packed their luggage and headed out towards Mount Praia.

It took them one hour to go there from the manor where they stayed by car. They called a taxi nearby and reached the foot of the hill one hour later.

Lots of tourists from many parts of the world gathered there as expected. Natalia climbed the hill with Archie.

It was afternoon and the sun was bright. It was not too far away from the sea and the soothing sea breeze blew across the grass.

It was already four in the afternoon when they climbed halfway up the hill. Archie had been working out all year long and he was okay with it, yet Natalia was so exhausted that she breathed heavily.

“Could you still make it?” Archie held her and took a water bottle out from his backpack. He handed it to her.

Natalia took it over and gulped, nodding. “Yeah.”

She had to climb to the top. She must not give up and let anyone make fun of her.

She held her breath and tried hard to climb up. Archie followed behind her, firstly, to protect her, and

secondly, to avoid letting her see his disdainful eyes.

“Hey, what’s that over there?”

Natalia suddenly straightened her back and pointed at a huge tree tied with red ropes not far away.

Quite many tourists had headed there. Archie stopped and gazed at it, saying, “No idea. Looks like it’s a place for people to meditate.”

Natalia became intrigued. “Let’s have a look there.”

They walked there and discovered a small pond.

A huge banyan tree tied with tons of red wooden signs was situated behind the pond and a young monk aged around twenty was sitting under it. He was wearing a shabby robe, sitting cross-legged while chanting scriptures and meditating.

Natalia had no idea what that meant and she whispered, “What’s he doing?”

“Practicing,” Archie replied with a low voice.

“Practicing?” Natalia looked slightly surprised. Seeing her confusion, Archie continued explaining to her.

“They are ascetic monks. Many people are Buddhists here Buddhist culture is prosperous, unlike the

Mahayana Buddhism we know, the Buddhist culture here promotes Hinayana Buddhism and self-cultivation. There are many monks who have been a monk since childhood. With a devout heart of seeking Buddhism, they've walked all over the motherland with their feet. In both the chilly winter and the hot summer, they would never stop and would practice painstakingly, hoping to get rid of this world spiritually as soon as possible."

Natalia was startled and light dawned on her.

She then continued asking, "What about those red wooden signs there?"

Archie slightly frowned. "No idea. I guess it's the people here, who want to pray for safety and happiness when they saw a monk there. See the soil beneath him? The surrounding soil is dry, but the place he sits on is a little wet, and it's sunk quite a lot too. He must have meditated there for several days."

"Several days? Didn't he need to sleep, eat or drink?"

Archie shook his head. "What I know about these is just trivial. There are still a lot of things I don't know."

Natalia flattered him with a smiling face, "You still know much more than me, you're awesome."

Seeing her flattering look, Archie shook his head with grievance and both of them continued climbing the hill.

They only reached the hilltop when the sky had gone completely dark.

Natalia was so exhausted that she did not want to move a finger. Archie held her to eat something at a small restaurant at the hilltop. She only regained some strength when she finished eating.

"Hi miss, mister. Do you want a love padlock? Do hang a love padlock outside!"

Just then, an old lady with white hair approached them. A lot of padlocks with various sizes and shapes were hung on her. She tried to sell one to them.

Natalia asked with curiosity, "Love padlock? What's that?"

"As long as you write your name down and hang it on the marriage bridge outside, you'll get to grow old together and won't separate with each other ever."

Natalia's eyes gleamed.

She turned around and asked Archie, "Shall we get one?"

Archie nodded and Natalia took one from the old lady. She asked, "How much is it?"

“Twenty dollars.”

Archie gave her a hundred dollars and signified her not to return the change.

The old lady was delighted and grateful at once. She gave them an extra small padlock, saying it was a descendant’s padlock. As long as they hung it on the marriage bridge, they would definitely get a lot of children and grandchildren.

They received the gift with appreciation and after paying the money, they walked towards the marriage bridge mentioned by the old lady.

After walking a distance of around half a mile, they finally spotted a bridge across a dry waterfall in front of them.

The bridge had been staying there for some years. A lot of love padlocks with various sizes were hung on it. Natalia dashed there and noticed names and even some romantic words were even written on the padlocks.

“I didn’t know we could do this, how interesting!”

Archie pouted a little and walked there, asking, “Where do you want to hang it?”

Natalia pointed at a spot. “Maybe here! It’s not easy to be found, maybe it’ll stay longer.”

Archie then took a pen out of his pocket and wrote both of their names down on the padlock.

Chapter 167 Our Children

Natalia glimpsed at the padlock and seeing his serious and neat writing, her eyelashes trembled a little.

Archie noticed romantic words were written on other padlocks after finished writing the names. He then

asked Natalia for her opinion, “Shall we write something on it?”

Natalia asked him in return, “What do you think we should write?”

Archie felt troubled.

He was not the mushy type and he would only say something heartwarming and sappy when he faced

her and was brimmed with emotions.

Yet he truly could not think of any romantic words when they were in the middle of nowhere.

Since he had said that, he did not want to give up. After pondering for a while, he took the pen and

wrote swiftly on the padlock.

Natalia approached him to take a look, and the words written on top was – I want to sleep her forever!

Natalia was speechless.

‘Are you kidding me, Mister McCarthy?’

Archie hung the padlock on the bridge with great satisfaction. Natalia still had a descendant's padlock.

Archie snatched it from her and wrote two names on top. He then hung it on the same spot too.

Natalia asked him, "What did you write?"

"Names."

"Names?" She widened her eyes in a daze. "Whose names?"

"Our children's."

"..."

Without thinking further, she thought he meant their future children.

Archie locked the padlocks, held her hand and turned back. He ignored Natalia when she looked a bit weird.

They returned to the place that they had had their meals just now and they only knew the meteor shower said by rumors online was true after inquiring.

The observatory had indeed said there would be a meteor shower tonight, and many people had climbed the hill earlier and set up tents for it.

It was no longer the first time Natalia had seen a meteor shower with Archie together. He had brought her to see it once not long ago.

Since they had come, and coincidentally, the meteor shower only appeared today. They did not have any reason not to see it.

Natalia's despondence vanished and she ran to the hilltop to see the meteor.

The meteor still had not showed up, but quite many people had been sitting on the grass. Many of them were couples.

Some came in families. The atmosphere was warm and peaceful as they gathered together.

"It would be nice if we have a telescope. We could see better." Natalia sighed.

Archie raised his eyebrow and pointed at a stall nearby. "Someone seems to be selling it there."

"Oh really? Shall we go there and have a look?"

Archie nodded and both of them went to the stall. They noticed the telescopes sold were all inferior and outdated.

The stall owner tried hard to persuade them to purchase one when he saw them. After all, they looked young and wealthy, and had elegant temperament.

He promised that there would definitely be a meteor shower tonight and the view would be clearer and more beautiful with the telescopes.

Natalia did not know how to make a decision since she didn't know about it, so she let Archie choose.

Archie picked some telescopes and without asking the price, he disassembled them, chose the parts deftly and combined them.

His movement was quick and smooth and before the stall owner could react, he had already disassembled four telescopes. He instantly panicked.

"Hey, mister, don't destroy it if you don't want to buy it. How could I sell these anymore?"

Archie was expressionless. "It's fine if you don't sell these outdated junk to others."

The stall owner became apprehensive and as he wanted to argue with him, Archie had already combined the parts he took off and tried to look through the telescope.

Although he was dissatisfied with the outcome, that was the best he could do since the parts were limited. At least the telescope looked much better than the ones before.

He took a stack of cash from his wallet and tossed it to the stall owner. He took the telescope and a soft

mat from the stall, holding Natalia's hand and left.

They came to a empty place. Archie laid the mat on the ground and both of them sat down.

Natalia tried looking through the telescope but she could not tell the difference.

Archie asked her to look through it when the meteor showed up. She would then know its difference with ordinary telescopes.

Natalia put down the telescope and they sat there, waiting.

"Hey, I heard that your wish would come true if you make a wish the moment the meteor shows up.

What wish do you want to make later?"

Natalia poked his arm and asked.

Archie smiled. "I thought your wish won't be fulfilled if you say it?"

Natalia pondered and thought it to be true.

She said with grievance, "Alright!"

Seeing her looking a little dispirited, Archie worried that she was tired, and he turned his eyes towards his shoulder, signaling her, "Have a rest, I guess we still need to wait for a long time."

Natalia had been climbing the hill the whole afternoon and she indeed felt a little tired. She then leaned

against him.

Archie extended his hand and took her into his arm. Both of them cuddled towards each other tightly.

The night was silent and the air was filled with the sweet fragrance of the grass. Natalia lied in his arm

quietly and she felt peaceful as she listened to his powerful heartbeats and rhythmic breathing.

“Do you feel cold?” she asked.

Archie said with a low voice, “No.”

“Tell me if you’re cold. Cover yourself with some clothes, don’t catch a cold.”

“Alright. I don’t feel cold when I’m hugging you.”

They cuddled towards each other silently. Natalia moved a little for a more comfortable position. She

put her head on his legs. Archie put his hand on her waist and the atmosphere was tranquil.

“Take a nap if you’re tired,” Archie rumbled when he noticed her tired look.

Natalia shook her head. “No, I want to stay with you.”

Archie felt touched and he did not decline her kindness. Natalia whispered, “Let’s talk about something.

We won’t feel tired if we talk to each other.”

Archie pondered. "What do you want to talk about?"

"Anything."

"Then ... could you tell me about your childhood?"

Natalia was startled.

Her childhood?

She opened her mouth and wanted to speak, yet her face turned gloomy when she suddenly remembered her deceased mother.

How should she talk about her childhood?

No matter how she said, it seemed like she could not avoid that wound in her heart.

She fell into silence and only replied at length, "I refuse."

Archie raised his eyebrow with surprise and looked down.

He saw her eyes limpid with a mixed expression. She pursed her lips and was looking stubborn.

His eyes turned profound and he said blandly after a long while, "Is it because you have something embarrassing to talk about?"

Natalia was startled and her slightly despondent mood instantly transformed into annoyance.

“You’re the one getting embarrassed!”

Archie could not help but chuckle.

“You know, I won’t abandon you just because you did some embarrassing things in your childhood.”

Natalia looked up and took a glimpse at him. She then looked away. “I still refuse to talk about it.”

Archie did not intend to force her.

The mountain wind was cold. He hugged her and as both of them cuddled towards each other, the coldness they felt was greatly minimized.

Archie played with her locks of hair unintentionally with his fingers and whispered, “Close your eyes if

you’re tired, I’ll wake you up when the meteor shows up.”

Chapter 168 I Only Have My Eyes Set On You

Natalia nodded and closed her eyes.

They stayed at the hilltop and had waited for a long while.

The meteor still did not appear.

Natalia lied on Archie’s lap and she was covered by his coat. She started to feel sleepy.

The surrounding temperature dropped when the night got darker. Natalia still felt a little cold although

she was covered by the coat. She moved closer to Archie in a daze for more warmth.

Archie looked down and fixed his eyes at her who was in his arms. He caressed her locks of hair with his fingers and looked sympathetic.

They had no idea how long had passed, and the sky started to turn bright.

Dawn broke and the first sunlight shone on the tranquil land. Natalia was patted softly and woken up.

She opened her eyes and the first thing she saw was Archie's beautiful, chiseled face. His handsome face was shrouded by vague halo and he looked divine.

She was dumbfounded by the beauty in front of her. She then narrowed her eyes with joy, extended her hand and pinched his cheek. "It feels too wonderful to wake up in such a handsome man's arms every day."

Archie did not stop her and he only spoke after she had done pinching, "The sky's gone bright. Let's go."

Natalia sat up and looked around. As expected, everyone was packing their things with a disappointed look, preparing to leave. She then scratched her scalp.

"What about the meteor? Was there any meteor last night?"

“No.” Archie stood up, extended his hand and held her up. “Maybe the news had made some mistakes.”

“Aw...”

A disappointed look flashed across Natalia’s face, she then nearly fell due to the extreme soreness of her legs.

Archie was quick enough to hold her. He asked, “Have your legs gone numb?”

“Yeah.” Natalia nodded. She stooped and hit her numb and sour legs.

Archie’s eyes went somber and he stopped her. After putting on his coat, he took a step forward and squatted before her.

“Get up.”

Natalia was startled.

She hesitated when she saw his broad shoulders. “The mountain road is steep. I can walk on my own.

I’ll be fine after resting for a while.”

“Get, up!” Archie repeated.

Natalia bit her lower lip and could only climb to his back gently. Archie carried her up and they walked down the hill together.

The mountain road was winding all the way down, and the dew last night had not dissipated. A layer of mist was lingering among the mountains. They were instantly surrounded by coldness the moment the wet air stimulated their skin as they walked in the mountains.

Natalia waved the branches that extended from both sides of the mountain road away and asked,

“Have you not slept the whole night yesterday?”

“Yeah.”

“Then you must be very tired? Why don’t you put me down and I’ll walk on my own? It’ll be fine if we walk slower.”

Archie did not do what she asked and he continued walking forward. He rumbled, “I’m not tired.”

Afraid that she did not believe him, he paused and added, “I used to burn midnight oil when I’m busy with work back then, I’ve gone used to it.”

Seeing how he insisted on carrying her, Natalia did not force him anymore. She lied on his back obediently and allowed the sense of happiness to fill her heart.

“Archie, if you get old in the future and can’t walk anymore, I could carry you as well. You can go anywhere you want.”

Archie finally could not hold back his laughter when he heard her innocent words. He said blandly,

“Could you possibly carry me?”

“Of course. I might look tiny, my strength is huge.”

“Alright, I’ll let you carry me in the future.”

“Deal.”

“Sure.”

Natalia was brimmed with happiness and she felt that it was the happiest thing in the world.

To continue walking with her loved one until they went old, even without extreme excitements and luxuries, as long as they were both healthy and could stay with each other for the rest of their life, it would be enough.

They only reached the foot of the hill when it was noon. They were both starving and thirsty.

There were several local-looking restaurants at the foot of the hill, they randomly picked one and

entered.

After having lunch, they took a taxi for their way back. Natalia did not sleep well last night. She felt exhausted and sleepy the moment she got into the car, and she fell deeply asleep shortly.

It was already evening when she woke up.

She got up from bed, rubbed her eyes and realized she had slept straight until sunset.

The French window of the bedroom was opened. The curtain billowed as the wind blew in. There was a salty smell in the damp air.

She got down from the bed and walked towards the French window. She saw a huge and spacious balcony outside. On the balcony there were a dining table and two chairs.

To the East, there was a misty sea of smoke. The fire-like sunset seemed like having ignited half of the sky and the sky was reflected on the sea like a broken red brocade. Standing on the balcony, she stretched out, narrowed her eyes slightly, and breathed the fresh air from the sea. She felt tired and hungry.

A nice aroma came from downstairs. She smelled and her eyes gleamed. She turned around and ran all the way to the kitchen.

She found Archie grilling beef steak in the kitchen as expected.

He was way more skilled when he grilled the beef steak, compared to the time when he cooked the vegetables yesterday. Hearing her footsteps, he did not turn around. "You're awake?"

"Yeah." Natalia approached him to have a look. The steak was almost ready and raw vegetables had been washed. It looked like he was going to make salad.

"Let me help you!"

She took the initiative to cut the vegetables for him. After reminding her to be careful with the knife, he allowed her to do so.

Natalia finished cutting the vegetables and she put the salad sauce on top. The steak's aroma appeared. She smelled hard and drooled. "What a nice smell."

Archie let out a smile and placed the grilled steak on the plate, asking her to take it out.

With the cool breeze, panoramic view from the terrace and the round table with two beef steak servings and a salad on top, Archie took a bottle of red wine and went outside.

Their dinner was simple and delicate. They enjoyed their dinner while watching the sunset.

Natalia had a hard time cutting the beef steak on her plate with fork and knife, yet Archie already finished cutting the steak on his plate and handed it to her.

She smiled sweetly, squinted and put a piece of steak into her mouth. The taste and the heat were just right. The steak was tender and absolutely delicious.

She ate while looking at Archie who was sitting opposite to her.

Seeing his elegant movements, noble posture against the sunset and waves of the blue sea, she just felt like it was the most beautiful picture in the world.

Archie raised his eyebrow and glimpsed at her. "What's wrong?"

Natalia smiled and shook her head. "Nothing, I just think you're handsome."

Her praise cheered him up and he could not help but let out a smile. He said complacently, "Of course."

"You're almost as handsome as Kelvin."

"Who's Kelvin?"

"He's the lead singer of a recently debuted band in another country. He's really handsome."

Archie instantly pulled down his face and he knocked her head. "Don't you have your eyes on other men!"

Natalia caressed her head with a grin. "It's a basic respect towards a handsome guy, you know?"

Archie looked even unhappier.

Noticing something was not right, Natalia quickly spoke, "But I'll only have my eyes set on you."

Chapter 169 Giving Her A Surprise

Only then did he look happier.

They finished the dinner in a peaceful and harmonious atmosphere. They only finished after the night

crept in and the fire-like twilight disappeared.

They stayed in the small town for two more days and soon it was time for them to go back.

On the last day, Natalia didn't arrange anything.

Archie went out around the afternoon, saying that he had something to do. Natalia didn't think much

about it. But then, it was almost six in the evening, and he wasn't back yet.

She got a bit worried.

After all, they were in an unfamiliar city and a foreign country. More importantly, she called him many

times, but he didn't pick up his phone.

Natalia felt more and more nervous and at this moment, her phone rang.

She quickly picked it up, and the person on the phone was Nancy.

Nancy sounded urgent on the phone, "Mrs. McCarthy, this is not good. Mr. McCarthy got hurt."

"What?"

"It's quite serious and I cannot explain it on the phone. Please come over as soon as you can! We are at the east side of the beach."

She then hung up.

Natalia didn't even get the chance to inquire more about the location.

Her face blanched as she stared at her phone.

Archie got hurt?

What happened?

He went out saying that he had something to do, and how did he get hurt?

Nancy wouldn't be so perturbed if it wasn't serious. So, Archie had to be quite badly hurt.

Natalia couldn't waste any time. She ran out with her phone, not even grabbing her handbag.

During their call, Nancy only mentioned the east side of the beach and nothing more. Natalia could only run in that direction. She looked around while she ran.

Luckily, their villa wasn't too far from the beach.

After a while, she arrived at the said location.

But there was nothing on the beach, not even another person. Where was Archie?

She frowned.

She tried to call Nancy again.

Before she could dial the number, there was a loud noise behind her.

She was startled and turned around. The old wooden boat which was initially there exploded into pieces.

After that, a small, one-foot-tall silver robot walked towards her.

Natalia was taken aback, and was dumbfounded.

She did not know what to do and before she knew it the robot was in front of her. It raised its arms in the air.

There was a letter in its hands.

Natalia was shocked at what she saw. She subconsciously grabbed the letter.

The robot said in a mechanical but nice voice, “Turn left and go straight. He’s waiting for you there.”

Natalia was confused.

He? Who?

Thousands of thoughts crossed her mind, but she didn’t dare to be sure.

She quickly ripped the letter open. The vigorous and powerful handwriting could only belong to that person.

“Turn left and go straight.”

It was short, but she could recognize his writing.

Natalia already knew what was going on and what he was planning.

She felt a bit trolled. At the same time, she calmed down and wasn’t worried anymore.

She started to saunter towards the left of the beach.

The beach was in a semicircle, surrounding Mount Praia. He probably cleared the area and hence there wasn’t anyone else there. Natalia walked slowly, she was nervous and embarrassed at the same time.

Not long after, she arrived around the corner of the mountain.

It was the end of the beach. She couldn't go forward anymore, otherwise, she would have to enter the sea.

She looked around but couldn't find the person she was looking for.

She took out her phone and wanted to call him. Just at that moment, her phone rang.

She quickly picked up the call.

"Look back."

The person's deep and magnetic voice could be heard from the phone. Natalia was taken aback, she quickly turned around.

A huge ship appeared out of nowhere on the sea. Technically, it was a cruise.

It was too far away and she couldn't see it clearly. It was also evening and there were mists around the beach. The cruise was veiled.

After around 5 minutes, the cruise appeared clearly before her eyes.

She realized that it was an extremely extravagant cruise. The man stood at the fore of the cruise. He was wearing a white suit and was standing straight. In the evening light, he looked like a midcentury

prince. He was alluring and handsome.

Her heart started to beat fast.

What was he planning?

She had a hunch about what he was planning, but she didn't dare to confirm it. But her heart couldn't

help but beat faster and faster.

The man walked down the footboard elegantly.

"What are you doing?"

She couldn't help but ask when he walked up to her.

Archie smiled. He was wearing a suit, he looked calmer and sterner than usual. He gained an extra

casual yet noble aura.

Her face flushed from embarrassment just by looking at him.

He grabbed her hand and laughed, "Don't ask. Just follow me."

Natalia went with him onto the cruise.

It was decorated nicely inside. Covered with white veils and red rose petals, it looked very romantic.

The cruise started its engine when they got on it.

Archie brought her into a room. A team of world-class stylists were awaiting her.

The stylists politely bowed and greeted them as they walked in, “Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy.”

Archie let them do their magic, “Please style her up.”

“Yes.”

Natalia was nervous, and she stared at him as she said, “Archie.”

“Be good, don’t ask any questions yet.”

He ruffled her hair gently. His large and warm palm made her calm and gave her strength. Natalia

pursed her lips. In the end, she chose to believe him and didn’t ask anything.

The make-up room was large. There was a pink evening gown hanging on the rack on the side. There

were chips of diamonds embroidered on the dress, looking exquisite and fancy.

Natalia sat on the chair and let the stylists do whatever they wanted.

An odd feeling emerged in her heart as she stared at that pretty gown.

She didn’t understand what he was planning. Her intuition was telling her that he had prepared her a

surprise.

But what kind of surprise could this be?

This was their first time going on a trip together. They only wanted to experience the feeling of going on a normal date like a normal couple and weren't planning to do anything else.

Not to mention that even though Archie was good at flirting, he was quite conservative at heart.

He wasn't the most romantic person.

She couldn't believe that he would prepare her a surprise.

If Archie, who was changing in the other room right now, knew what she was thinking, he would be so sad.

Chapter 170 Decorated All On His Own

Archie planned and prepared everything today, all on his own.

The design of the gown, the decoration in the cruise, the rings, the surprise in the evening, he did everything without anyone's help.

Even though he was not so good at showing affection, but it would often turn out exceptionally well if he

put in some effort.

Soon, Natalia was done with her make-up.

The stylists helped her up and helped her change into the gown.

Natalia just stood there as they put the dress on her. In the end, she couldn't help but ask curiously,

“What are you guys doing? Why am I dressed up so formally? I don't think today is some special day.”

The stylist smiled at her mysteriously, not planning to tell her the truth.

“I'm sorry, Mrs. McCarthy. We are not allowed to say anything. Otherwise, Mr. McCarthy will get angry at us.”

The other stylist also laughed as she said, “Don't worry, you will find out real soon.”

Natalia agreed, she would find out soon.

And they weren't going to tell her even if she wanted to know. She helplessly brushed off the questions she prepared in her head to extract information from them.

After changing, she looked in the mirror. She was surprised when she saw the girl in the mirror with delicate make-up.

The stylist said, “You look very good in this gown. Mr. McCarthy has good taste.”

Natalia was shocked, she asked, “He chose this?”

“Yes! It's made by the top designer Frank. Mr. McCarthy presented him a draft and Frank improved it.

He then handmade the gown.”

Natalia was aghast.

She remembered that not long ago, Archie was constantly on business trips. Even when he was in Julio, he would stay in the company all the time. Anyway, he had been extremely busy during that period of time.

When he finally got back, he said to bring her on a trip. How did he manage to find time to design a gown and decorate everything?

The stylists weren’t going to say anything more and Natalia stopped asking.

She was done changing and the stylist added a necklace on her. They then guided her out.

Archie was already waiting outside.

His eyes sparkled when he saw her.

Natalia always looked good in all sorts of clothing.

She was tall and slender, and her skin was fair. The pink gown made her looked tender and lovely, and her cheeks were rosy. She was absolutely charming.

Archie smiled. He went up and grabbed her hand. He said to the stylists, "Thank you for your hard work!"

They smiled and waved their hands, "No need to thank us, it's our job. We will take our leave if there's nothing else to do."

Archie nodded and they left.

After they left, Natalia couldn't resist the urge anymore. She looked up and noticed that he changed into another outfit as well.

He wasn't in the white suit anymore, but a more formal black suit with a swallow tail.

Archie was tall and strong to begin with. He looked even more elegant and noble in this outfit.

She was in awe, and then she asked, "What are you planning all behind me? Also, why are we in such formal outfits? Are we attending some important event today?"

Archie reached out his hand and tugged a loose strand of hair behind her ears. He smiled, "Yes, there's an important event that we must attend today."

Natalia's eyes were wide open, "What event?"

Archie raised the arch of his brow, "You'll find out soon enough."

He held her hand and walked out of the area.

He grabbed Natalia's hand and she could only follow him. Archie wasn't going to tell her anything and she was burning in curiosity.

As they were walking, she asked eagerly again, "Where are we going?"

Archie looked down and stared at her. He pointed at his watch, "It's almost eight, are you hungry?"

Natalia only then realized that she hadn't eaten anything!

It was all his fault for making things so complicated! Originally, she was waiting for him for the dinner in their villa.

She ran out of the house after hearing that he got hurt. She didn't care about anything else.

But when she got here, she was brought into the make-up room. She was forced to stay there for more than two hours and didn't have the chance to eat.

Now that he mentioned it, she realized that she was starving.

Natalia thought about it and eyed him reproachingly, "It's your fault! Nancy said that you got hurt, but look at you! What happened?"

Archie looked a bit awkward hearing what she said.

He rubbed his nose and tried to explain, "I wasn't hurt. She lied."

Natalia scoffed coldly, "How dare you guys lied about something like that. You guys were in this together!"

Archie was also in dismal as he only told Nancy to help him pass on the message. He didn't know that she would use such a way to get Natalia over.

But it was too late to back out, he couldn't let this slip. He said gently as he smiled, "Sorry, it's my fault. I shouldn't let her use such a lie to make you come over. But I felt very happy, seeing how worried you were about me."

Natalia was speechless. She glared at him and didn't press the matter further.

They arrived at the restaurant. It was an open-air restaurant located on the second floor of the deck of the cruise.

It was decorated with white veils and there was a long rectangle table in the middle. The table was decorated prettily, there were vases of flowers on it. It was simple yet romantic.

They sat down and the waitresses walked over, bringing one dish after another.

The dishes were naturally prepared beforehand. It was delicious and unique.

Natalia liked prawns. Archie prepared some and put them in front of her.

He peeled them and put them in her bowl. He said in a low voice, "It's cold in the night. You should eat something warmer. Don't eat too many prawns."

Natalia nodded. Nothing happened during their meal. Archie peeked at his phone twice, and it seemed like someone was reporting something to him.

She was done eating by the time he looked at his phone for the third time.

He cleaned his hands and stood up. He reached out his hand and wanted to hold hers.

"Alright, let's go."

It was almost ten in the evening.

It was windy on the cruise and the temperature had gone down.

Natalia asked, "Are we not going back to the villa?"

"Not yet."

He answered. He then made a call.

“Bring it over!”

Natalia looked at him. She didn’t know what he was planning. She had a thick wool jacket on and stood next to him on the deck. She didn’t feel cold.

After a while, she heard noises coming from the sky.

She was surprised. She looked up and found a black dot in the night sky.

She looked at Archie in shock.

“Where are we going?”

Archie smiled. He looked at her and said, “Will you trust me?”

Natalia nodded.

“Close your eyes.”

She was dumbfounded. She stared at his gentle and profound eyes and decided to trust him. And so, she closed her eyes.